

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IO-12 CU-04 AID-20 NSC-10 USIA-12

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 RSR-01 PC-15

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FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5071

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0567

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: YOUTH PARA

REF: STATE 16267, COTONOU 0268, STATE 54661, STATE 70302

PERCENTAGES ASSIGNED CATEGORIES, OBJECTIVES AND RESOURCES ARE APPROXIMATE. ESTIMATES DIFFICULT TO MAKE, AS MRGD STILL EVOLVING ITS POLICY, POWER RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN GOVERNMENT NOT YET FIRM, AND LACK OF EVIDENCE OF SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE EXERCISED BY YOUTH ON GOVERNMENT POLICY.

I. YOUTH CATEGORIES

A. 30 PERCENT YOUNG BUREAUCRATS, WITH CONCENTRATIONS IN MINISTRIES OF FINANCE, PLANNING, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND EDUCATION.

15 PERCENT MEDIA

20 PERCENT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

5 PERCENT MEDICINE (FAMILY PLANNING)

20 PERCENT EDUCATION (YOUNG FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION)

5 PERCENT FACULTY OF LETTERS (ENGLISH DEPARTMENT)

5 PERCENT SECONDRY SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS

B. AS STATED IN COTONOU 0268, YOUTH MOVEMENTS THIS COUNTRY GIVEN BY FACTIONALISM AT PRESENT. ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT HAS CALLED FOR UNITY, NO EVIDENCE YET OBSERVED ANY TREND DEVELOPING THIS DIRECTION.
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YOUTH AND STUDENT GROUPS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET OVER PAST YEAR. ALTHOUGH PRESENT GOVERNMENT DOES HAVE NUMBER OF YOUNG MIDDLE AND UPPER LEVEL CIVIL SERVANTS (BUREAUCRATS AND TECHNOCRATS), THEY ARE NOT GENERALLY ASSOCIATED WITH " YOUTH" GROUPS OR MOVEMENTS. WE PRESENTLY WORKING SATISFACTORILY WITH THESE YOUNG BUREACUCRATS, WHO

CARRY BURDEN OF ROUTINE WORK. SOME ARE MOVING INTO POSITIONS OF INCREASING RESPONSIBILITY, ESPECIALLY IN FINANCE, PLANNING, RURAL DEVELOPMENT. MODERATELY CLOSE AND REGUALR CONTACT MAINTAINED EDUCATIONAL CIRCLES, SEPECIALLY ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT FACULTY OF LETTERS. WE ALWAYS SEEKING SAFE, LEGITIMATE WAYS TO BROADEN THIS CONTACT, BUT CAUTION MUST BE OBSERVED, VIEW GOVERNMENT OF DAHOMEY' S

RECENT EDICT FORBIDDING TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS TO ENTER INTO DIRECT RELATION WITH FOREIGN MISSIONS OR ORGANIZATIONS. DEPART-EMNT' S POLICY OF EMPHASIZING IMPROVED TRADE JUSTIFIES PERCENTAGE WEIGHT GIVEN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY. GENERALLY SPEAKING, PERCENTAGE WEIGHTS LISTED HERE REFLECT OUR ESTIMATE, GIVEN OVERALL SITUATION THIS COUNTRY, CHANNELS MOST SUSCEPTIBLE OF PERMITTING USEFUL CONTACT.

C. NONE DISCERNIBLE AT THIS TIME.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. 20 PERCENT CREATE AND MAINTAIN FAVORABLE ATTITUDES TOWARD U. S.

20 PERCENT PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING BROAD U. S. GOALS, POLICIES

20 PERCENT FOSTER CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO BILATERAL TRADE AND U. S. INVESTMENTS IN FUTURE YEARS

20 PERCENT FOSTER CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

15 PERCENT ENCOURAGE PRAGMATIC, NON- IDEOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO NATIONAL PROBLEMS

5 PERCENT DEVELOP YOUTH CONTACTS IN ORDER UNDERSTAND AND FOLLOW

INCIPIENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL TRENDS IN THE SOCIETY.

B. OBJECTIVES OMITTED ARE CONSIDERED TO BE LARGELY INAPPLICABLE HERE. ANY EFFORT ON OUR PART PROMOTE GENUINE DEMOCRACY HERE MIGHT WELL BE MISINTERPRETED AS ATTEMPT INTERFERE IN INTERANL AFFAIRS. ACCESS TO FUTURE LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT INFLUENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OPTENTIAL FUTURE LEADERS CAN BEST BE ACHIEVED IN CONTEXT OF CREATING, MAINTAINING FAVORABLE ATTITUDES TOWARD U. S. AND PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING OF BORAD U. S. GOALS AND POLICIES. PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO NATIONAL PROBLEMS IS PART AND PARCEL OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT THIS COUNTRY. LAST SENTENCE OF I- B
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ABOVE APPLIES EQUALLY HERE.

III. RESOURCES

A. 20 PERCENT IV TRAVEL GRANTS

10 PERCENT EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL GRANTS

FULL- YEAR ACADEMIC GRANTS TO
20 PERCENT FOREIGN STUDENTS (ESSENTIALLY FOR MINISTRIES OF DEVEL-
OPMENT, FINANCE, PLANNING)
10 PERCENT FOREIGN PROFESSORS (RESEARCH)
10 PERCENT CU SHORT- TERM AMERICAN GRANTEES
10 PERCENT CU AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAMS
20 PERCENT USIA CULTURAL AND INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMMING
B. DIFFICULT TO STATE RELIABLY NOW WHETHER THESE STANDARD USG
RESOURCES COULD BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE, OR JUST HOW USEFUL
PRIVATE RESOURCES WOULD BE.
C. PEACE CORPS MAKES VERY SOLID CONTRIBUTION TO MISSION YOUTH
EFFORT. HOWEVER, WE FEEL THIS LARGELY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF LOW
PROFILE MAINTAINED BY PCV' S, AND MINIMAL IDENTIFICATION WITH
OFFICIAL PRESENCE HERE. WE FEEL ANY CHANGE THAT WOULD TEND TO GIVE
PC A MORE OFFICIAL IDENTITY- E. E., IF IT WERE THOUGHT OF AS BEING
PART OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY- WOULD RISK UNDERMINING ITS OVERALL
EFFECTIVENESS.

IV. RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF " YOUTH"

A. LOW AT PRESENT
B. AS INDICATED PREVIOUSLY, THERE IS NO SOLID YOUTH MOVEMENT
HERE, HENCE LITTLE NOTICEABLE ORGANIZED " YOUTH" INFLUENCE. THIS IS
NOT TO SAY THAT IT CANNOT BECOME IMPORTANT LATER ON. HOWEVER,
GIVEN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WE DO NOT FORESEE THIS FOR THE
IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

C. 1.

(A) 7 PERCENT (PEACE CORPS ADMINISTRATORS INCLUDED)

6 TOTAL MAN MONTHS PER YEAR

(B) CONTACT WORK 60 PERCENT

REPORTING 10 PERCENT

PROGRAM WORK 30 PERCENT

(C) STATE 30 PERCENT

USIA 30 PERCENT

AID 10 PERCENT

PC 30 PERCENT

2. PROGRAM RESOURCES

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45 PERCENT OF CU BUDGET

45 PERCENT OF USIA BUDGET

10 PERCENT OF AID BUDGET.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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